

AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN



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Contents

FOREWORD—Herbert S. Turner

“AUGUSTA COUNTY DURING THE CIVIL WAR”—Address of Dr. Marshall Moore Brice. Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Augusta County Historical Society, Staunton, Virginia, Wednesday, May 19, 1965.

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A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$1.00 per copy.

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nest of Whiggism. In keeping with this conservative bent, the sentiment of Augusta was steadfastly Unionist. During the Nullification threat of 1832 its officials tendered to the United States the services of a militia company to quell South Carolina's recalcitrance. In 1850, with another abortive threat of secession, all newspapers here declared for the Union. Again in 1857, with inception of a secession movement in New England, the same stand was taken. During 1860, in the midst of the many celebrations — campaign gatherings, militia musters, Fourth of July, Washington's birthday — that idea of Union was stressed — always, though, coupled with the demand that it must be a Union operating properly under the Constitution. The Staunton *Vindicator*, supporting Douglas for President, and the *Spectator*, favoring Bell, violently decried thought of secession but were equally insistent that the eleven Northern States that ignored Supreme Court rulings on the Fugitive Slave Act must come into compliance.

This political conservatism in no respect interfered with a traditional resilience, coupled with a readiness to adapt to innovations. Shortly prior to the Civil War the area had undergone a trend toward industrialization, beginning with the advent of the Virginia Central Railroad. The first railroad train came to Augusta County in March 1854, drawn over a temporary track across the Blue Ridge by the powerful locomotive, Frederick Harris. It was not until four years later, April 13, 1858, that the Blue Ridge tunnel was completed, a train going through it in six minutes and saving an hour on the trip to Richmond. Telegraphic communication with the East was established August 31, 1857; the first message to Richmond was answered in five minutes, which might seem a record even today.

Among other institutions established in the decade preceding the Civil War were a large woolen mill, the boot and shoe factory, and a nationally known wagon manufactory on the corner of Market and Beverley Streets. There had also been progress in illumination. With the coming of artificial gas in 1859, Staunton had eighteen street corners and eighty dwellings lighted by gas. Another indication of forward-looking vision was the ambitious plan in 1860 for establishment of a bath house in Staunton, one of six in the State. In the prospectus describing the proposed venture, testimonials were appended by Staunton's eight physicians attesting to the salutary effects of bathing.

During the three years preceding the war, Augusta County

succumbed to an inordinate military enthusiasm. The two militia companies prior to 1857 had been hardly more than social organizations; in that year two new companies were mustered in Staunton, and companies were formed in Spring Hill, Greenville, West View, and Middlebrook. Two of these units had the distinction of serving as guards for the John Brown execution in 1859. By the date of secession this county had eight companies already inducted and four more in a formative stage.

For years Augusta County had enjoyed a far-flung reputation for its educational system. Jed Hotchkiss's Mossy Creek and Loch Willow Academies and the Waynesboro Academy drew students from appreciable distances. In Staunton itself were the Staunton Male Academy and three prominent schools for young ladies — Wesleyan Collegiate Female Institute, Augusta Female Seminary (now Mary Baldwin College), and Virginia Female Institute (now Stuart Hall). Staunton was also one of the sites for sessions of the State Supreme Court. Among publicly supported institutions in this county were the Western Lunatic Asylum, established in 1825, and the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institute, formed in 1840.

The year preceding the Civil War was exciting but at least peaceful in the county. The Presidential campaign, even longer than those of today, brought forth its canvassers, with their four-hour addresses, torchlight parades, and accompanying fisticuffs. The principal contenders in this region were the Constitutional Union Party, with Bell as nominee, and the Northern wing of the Democratic party, promoting Douglas. The Southern wing, sometimes known as the secession party, with Breckinridge as nominee, had only a modicum of support; Yancey, ardent secessionist, barnstormed through the county, with lukewarm attendance. When Douglas came to the area, he was regaled with banquets and a huge parade. At any rate, Augusta polled the heaviest majority in the State for Unionist candidate Bell. Virginia was one of the three States going for the Union party.

Of course, 1861, secession year, was a turbulent one. Early in January the county chose Baldwin, Baylor, and A. H. H. Stuart, ex-Secretary of the Interior, as delegates to the State Convention, which turned out to be the Secession Convention. All three were Unionists and voted against secession to the end, although two reversed their votes after the final ballot. It is interesting to trace the gradual swing of sentiment as reflected by our county newspapers. By April 1861 the *Vindicator*, once

Unionist, was aggressively secessionist. Both papers lent support to the fantastic proposal advanced by ex-Governor Wise that Virginia remain in the Union, at the same time making war against those Northern States refusing to comply with Supreme Court decisions. The project naturally came to naught.

With President Lincoln's April 15 call for three Virginia regiments to subdue the rebellion and with Governor Letcher's prompt reply that Virginia would supply not one man, the Secession Ordinance was a foregone conclusion. On secession day, Captain John D. Imboden, having alerted Augusta companies by telegraph, brought a special train from Richmond, arriving in Staunton late that afternoon. In what is described as the most thrilling scene ever enacted in the county, a mammoth throng assembled at the railroad station to send the boys away. Speeches were delivered by Generals Harman and Harper, prayers were offered, the band played, and the train moved eastward to a supposedly secret destination, which everyone knew to be Harper's Ferry. In reality, in view of the haste with which the movement was inaugurated, its progress was almost anticlimactic. The train traveled first to Gordonsville, then north by the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, where the young soldiers transferred to cars on the Manassas Gap Railroad for Strasburg. From that point they marched north to Winchester and then entrained on the Harper's Ferry Railroad. Finally they arrived at Harper's Ferry at four in the morning of April 19, thirty-six hours after departure. Long before that the Union garrison had set fire to the buildings and fled.

Meanwhile other Augusta units had gathered, and two days later six more companies — from Spring Hill, West View, Greenville, Mount Solon, Middlebrook, and Churchville — were marching down the Valley Pike. So eager were the troops to get into the fray that authorities forbade further concentration at Harper's Ferry. During April other companies were recruited, so that by June Augusta had fourteen companies at the front, a record excelled by no other Virginia county except Albemarle.

From April onward, Staunton was a busy military post, a supply depot, and a training center, with a commandant in overall charge. Quartermaster and commissary warehouses were set up near the railroad. Construction was begun on workshops at the corner of Frederick and Lewis Streets. Arsenals were established generally along South Augusta Street, though one existed beside the Virginia Hotel on New Street, and a small one

on Beverley Street, where City Hall now stands. The woolen mill and the shoe factory were placed under government supervision. New England workers in the shoe factory were sent home, though several chose to remain and cast their lot with the Confederacy. Among the first atrocity stories was one in a Boston newspaper alleging that Staunton citizens had showered these workers with insults and indignities. It was answered by the New England foreman himself, praising Stauntonians for their kindness and generosity.

Secession also brought an influx of troops, assembled for maneuver toward the northwest. Most of their encampments were between Staunton and Middlebrook and toward Waynesboro in the Old Barracks area. There were bivouacs on Sears Hill, and it is said that until 1865 the flaring of campfires could always be seen there. A general hospital was established at the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institute. Provision was made also for prisoners of war, who were being herded here almost daily for shipment to Richmond. The local jail proved inadequate, and we are told that there was some sort of stockade along the tracks west of the railroad station. A Confederate prison was erected west of Trinity Episcopal Church for deserters and other military offenders.

Though the Secession Ordinance dated from April 17, Virginia was not officially out of the Union until the popular referendum of May 23. Staunton's vote was unanimous; and in the remainder of Augusta County, 10 adverse ballots were cast, as against 3,140 favoring secession. In view of declarations that a vote against secession was treason, one wonders at the temerity of the 10 who were against it.

Soon after departure of our soldiers, Augusta citizens flocked to Harper's Ferry to visit the camps. It was possible to leave Staunton in early evening by stagecoach and shifting back and forth from train to coach, to reach Harper's Ferry next afternoon; and citizens returned with tidings that our boys were enjoying a gala experience. After ten days, however, when Colonel T. J. Jackson was appointed to command, visiting ceased and a stern regime of training replaced the picnic atmosphere. During May and June 1861 the Fifth Infantry bivouacked over almost all the lower Valley, rarely remaining in one place two full days.

The Augusta militia was also reorganized. Generals Harper and Harman, who had left here as leaders of division and brigade, were relieved and made regimental commander and execu-

tive of the Fifth Virginia Infantry, composed mostly of Augusta boys. Five regiments — the Innocent Second, the Harmless Fourth, the Fighting Fifth, the Bloody Twenty-seventh, and the Lousy Thirty-third — were assigned to the First Brigade, eventually to become the Stonewall Brigade.

Although May and June witnessed fighting in eastern and western Virginia, it was the distinction of the Fighting Fifth to engage in the first warfare in the Shenandoah Valley, at Falling Waters, or Hainesville, July 2, when the regiment was sent forward to delay Union General Patterson's march until Jackson could move his supplies. Staunton newspapers heralded it as a mighty victory; but in reality only about 290 of our troops were involved, supported by Captain Pendleton's Rockbridge Artillery. Pendleton, an Episcopal minister, had four guns named Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In this engagement only Luke, a brass six-pounder, was in action; and so confident was Pendleton in his gunners' marksmanship that, when the first shot was fired, he was heard to utter the prayer, "May God have mercy on their souls." The Federals were at least checked by the delaying action. Official reports describe the Fifth Infantry retreat as orderly; but there is extant a letter by a Fifth Infantry soldier stating that, when they were permitted to retire to a position three miles from the shelling, he made it in three minutes flat and that others were passing him on both sides. And in that battle we knew our first casualty when George Rupe of the Spring Hill area fell on the field of action.

That summer of 1861 teemed with unprecedented events. Early in May, a flurry was aroused by arrival in Augusta County of Federal General Harney, prisoner of war taken off the train at Harper's Ferry by Colonel W. H. Harman and shipped to Richmond by way of Staunton. Multitudes gathered to gaze on the arrested general. He was forwarded to Richmond and then released by Governor Letcher, with a note of apology to President Lincoln for this detention.

Of course the crescendo of excitement was attained July 21. At First Manassas the Fifth Infantry held an important salient, where two of our soldiers, Joab Seely and William Woodward, lost their lives. Augusta took pride in the fact that Imboden's artillery initiated the resistance on Henry Hill, Jackson aligning his First Brigade around this battery. After the battle Staunton's *Vindicator* could publish an arrogant editorial promising the

Yankees a similar fate whenever "their mongrel horde confronted the pure Norman strain of the Southland."

Now additional units were being mustered when, after sending fourteen companies to the field, Augusta was called upon once again. Instead of raw militia, another well-organized regiment was forged, the Fifty-second, to confront an enemy advancing from the west. To meet this threat, General John B. Floyd was assigned to command, then General Wise, and finally General Robert E. Lee. On his way to the western part of the State, General Lee spent several days in the vicinity of Middlebrook. Even he later was withdrawn, and Federal troops were foraging into Highland and Lewisburg before the year was over.

Though the entire war years were fraught with tumult, I think that 1862 and 1864 were the most eventful for Augusta County. In May 1862, with Jackson falling back from Kernstown, the enemy pushed southward to North River at Mount Crawford. A summons of militia to reinforce Jackson met pitiful response; Waddell notes that in one company only one man reported. Desertion climbed to extraordinary extremes. By May a belligerent and plundering band of deserters had taken refuge four miles east of Conrad's Store (Elkton) in the Blue Ridge and defied attempts to apprehend them. Jackson dispatched four infantry companies and two pieces of artillery to quell this so-called Rockingham rebellion, killing one and taking six prisoners. With the announcement that deserters would be accepted back without penalty, a flood of repentant men returned to Jackson.

Yet in May there remained the formidable threat of Federal invasion from North River and from North Mountain. A substantial number of Augustans fled south at approach of Banks's army. Valuables and public stores were shipped east by train. But Jackson surprised all when, instead of retiring south from Mount Crawford, he turned east to Port Republic, leaving the way open into the county. On Friday, May 4, the VMI Corps, 200 strong, marched into Staunton and was quartered in the long brick building where the National Valley Bank now stands. The next word was that Jackson had crossed the Blue Ridge and left the Valley. But two days later, Sunday afternoon, train after train steamed into Staunton bringing soldiers from Mechum's River. Citizens were permitted to enter town but not to leave. On Monday morning when the Fifth Infantry, preceded by the Stonewall Brigade Band and accompanied by the VMI Corps, paraded along Frederick Street, the veteran soldiers, dirty, ragged,

many barefoot, were disgruntled that the trim, neat VMI cadets drew the greater applause from the schoolgirls lining the route. The Fifth Infantry bivouacked the next two nights beyond Thornrose Cemetery and then marched to the battle of McDowell.

There was one other interesting episode of this May campaign. As Jackson fell back from Strasburg, he faced the possible loss of rolling stock, cars and engines, of the Manassas Gap Railroad. He initiated the practice of having freight cars pulled up the Valley Pike to the Virginia Central Railroad here. At last he was confronted with the problem of a huge engine, a Ross-Winans camelback, a large locomotive even by present standards. Undaunted, Jackson, who refused to abandon even a wheelbarrow, bade his engineer, Captain Sharp, move the locomotive the fifty miles from Mount Jackson. It was drawn by forty horses and was accompanied by wagons and a large crew. Bridges were strengthened, and on steep downgrades curious onlookers were drafted to hold the engine back. It completed its hegira, only to sink into the mud of Augusta Street. Despite enemy onslaughts, Jackson took time to order Major M. G. Harman, commandant of Staunton, to extricate the engine if it took every man here working day and night. Eventually it was placed on the Virginia Central tracks.

After the battle of McDowell and his laconic telegram announcing victory, Jackson marched his army back across Augusta County, this time through Lebanon Springs and Mount Solon. He maneuvered across the Federal flank, retook Winchester, and sent his Fifty Infantry as far north as Harper's Ferry. Augusta County merchants rushed to Winchester to purchase the rich stores left by the Federals. But their stay was only too short. Again in June, with three Union armies converging upon him, Jackson fell back to North River, marched east toward Port Republic, and in a speedy sequence of three battles so thoroughly defeated his opponents that for two years thereafter Augusta County was safe from enemy incursions.

In June 1862 Jackson led his army, including the Fifth and Fifty-second, to the defenses of Richmond. The Fifth Infantry was almost destroyed at Gaines's Mill; but the regiment displayed phoenix-like qualities. It was destroyed again at Cedar Mountain, at Second Manassas, at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg; it was decimated at the Wilderness and annihilated at Spotsylvania. Yet it survived to surrender at Appomattox.

During those years there were never fewer than a thousand

soldiers in the county, in addition to hospital inmates and units marching through. Staunton's population more than doubled, with the inevitable increase of lawlessness. In late 1861 a drunken soldier killed a waiter in a local restaurant, bringing forth mutterings of lynch law. Stealing, rustling, and looting became so prevalent that newspaper columns were filled with advertisements of lost property. Citizens grew inured to violence. In 1864 three Confederate soldiers were court-martialed and shot in Thornrose Cemetery for marauding in the county; and an editorial in the *Vindicator* lamented that so hardened had our people become that no more than a hundred turned out to witness the executions.

All the while the Federal blockade was imposing shortages. Nevertheless, until the last year of the war, merchants throughout the county were blessed with heavy trade and liberal profits. Accusations were aired that these commercial enterprises were profiteering. Stores advertised sales of goods run through the blockade. Yet aside from lack of salt and high costs emanating from depreciated currency, this region seems to have been exempt from excessive suffering. As an illustration, we have a letter from Lieutenant Randolph H. McKim, who, while awaiting parole exchange in 1862, visited the Harrisons here and who recorded the Christmas dinner menu: oyster soup, roast turkey, ham, round of beef, beans, salsify, rice, dried fruit, plum pudding, sliced fresh pork, fried oysters, lobster salad, hominy, potatoes, charlotte russe, pound cake, jelly, jelly cake, and Java coffee.

In 1864 General Walker, commander of the Stonewall Brigade, wrote that there were 200 soldiers in his unit without shoes. A wave of indignation assailed Augusta citizens, the newspapers reproaching the populace that, while they lived in well-shod plenty, their soldiers were barefoot. More than four hundred shoes were donated, and wagons were loaned to bear footwear to the army.

In fact, these four years offered opportunity as never before for individual charity. Schools, churches, and civic bodies vied in holding soirees, concerts, and other entertainment to raise funds. Benefits were staged for sufferers in Fredericksburg, Charleston, and Winchester. Horses, swords, and uniforms were donated. Augusta ladies presented General Stonewall Jackson a fine chestnut horse, which he accepted with a most gracious letter, though there is no evidence that he allowed this mount to supplant his favorite steed, Fancy, or Sorrel.

Still, this glow of brotherly love did not extend into every facet of human relations. Local elections continued to arouse recriminations and fisticuffs. Editors continued to indulge in personal quarrels. In the spring of 1863 *Spectator* Editor Richard Mauzy was accosted by Asher Harman for insinuating that the latter had made personal use of captured houseware. The fracas resulted in a broken arm for the editor, who then wrote vitriolic editorials vilifying not only Harman and his friends, but rival Editor Lynn as well.

Augusta County of course had its share of rumors and near-panics. In August 1863 the raid guard rushed to Buffalo Gap and remained three days in the rain, only to learn that it all was a false alarm. In December the militia regiment marched to Harrisonburg to thwart an invasion that never materialized. But May 1864 really initiated the greatest commotion. With news that Sigel's Union army was approaching from the north, the VMI Corps marched through here May 12, stopping overnight to be feted at a dance in Staunton. Breckinridge brought his array of troops, and all converged at New Market to rout the invaders May 15. Contrary to precedent, the frustrated enemy refused to lie quiescent. Within ten days tidings arrived that a new general, Hunter, was leading the Federals south in the Valley. Imboden published a valorous appeal for volunteers; the reserve regiment was mobilized; railroad trains brought soldiers from southwest Virginia and Tennessee. For by June 2 Hunter and his mighty army had occupied Harrisonburg, and Imboden with almost a ragtag force was confronting him along North River near Mount Crawford. By Saturday, June 4, all of General Grumble Jones's three regiments had arrived, and he took command.

But General Hunter refused to meet his opponents at Mount Crawford and sidled instead east toward Port Republic. To counter this new approach, Jones marched his infantry back across Middle River to Piedmont, while Imboden's cavalry picketed fords on North River. When on Sunday morning the Federals began their march south from Port Republic, Imboden and his brother, a colonel, blocked the way; and a delaying action was waged from Mount Meridian. It was not until noon that the Union army was in position at Piedmont, 10,000 soldiers confronting hardly more than 4,000. Jones selected a fair position, but his troop disposition was faulty; somehow he had detached his cavalry and possessed only infantry to meet the assaults.

With breastworks of fence rails, his infantry did drive back three heavy attacks, inflicting serious casualties. In fact, so severe were the counterattacks that Hunter ordered his wagon train turned around preparatory for retreat. Unfortunately for the Confederates, though, Hunter's left flank commander found a wooded alley to launch an assault on Jones's right flank; and the result was a debacle. General Grumble Jones was killed, as were Commonwealth Attorney Doyle and several other prominent citizens. More than a thousand were taken prisoner; and Imboden, with the wreck of an army, retired first to Fishersville and then to Waynesboro and the Blue Ridge tunnel.

One strange feature of the battle was that, although Stauntonians had been able to hear firing from the Richmond lines many times, they detected none of the noise from Piedmont. Nonetheless, with knowledge that a battle was in progress twelve miles away, the town commandant, Colonel Edwin G. Lee, had the foresight to send off a long wagon train and to load freight cars with quartermaster stores. When news came that our army was routed, the railroad train set off to Lynchburg, and another wagon train was loaded to go across the Blue Ridge to Arrington.

On Monday, June 6, Hunter marched into Staunton. Colonel Lee had taken the precaution of paroling Federal wounded in the general hospital. He kept the quartermaster shops open all Sunday night for distribution of supplies, and rode away Monday to join Imboden.

One of Hunter's first steps was to parole Confederate wounded in the general hospital. Then he opened the jail doors and released all prisoners. He destroyed war material, burning the woolen factory, steam mill, distillery, government workshops, Trotter's stables and twenty-six stagecoaches, and the railroad station; he wrecked but was unable to destroy the shoe factory. Attempts to blow up the railroad underpass area failed because of shortage of explosives. He smashed the presses of the *Spectator*, but Editor Lynn had secreted the *Vindicator* machinery. The railroad from Goshen to Christian's Creek was destroyed and the bridges were burned. Telegraph lines were torn down as far as Christian's Creek. Total damage in the county was estimated at more than a half million dollars. During his four-day stay in Staunton, Hunter imprisoned Mayor N. K. Trout for possession of firearms and Councilman B. F. Points for displaying pleasure at temporary departure of the Union army.

On Tuesday after his arrival, Hunter suddenly moved his

army westward past Swoope; and in a few minutes Confederate scouts surged through the town, capturing stragglers. It was only that Hunter was uniting his forces with those of General Crook, who was marching east through Buffalo Gap. When the armies joined, there were 20,000 Federals quartered here in a town of 4,000. An interesting fact is that Staunton had within its enclosures two future presidents of the United States, Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes and Lieutenant William McKinley.

On Friday the Union army, departing for Lexington, hanged Mr. David Creigh of Lewisburg for killing a marauding Federal soldier. Depredations in Lexington were severe, with destruction of VMI, sacking of Washington College, burning of several residences, including that of ex-Governor Letcher, and slaying of civilians.

Two days after Hunter's departure Colonel Edwin G. Lee returned to Staunton, paroled the 200 Union soldiers in the hospital, and began rehabilitation. Telegraph lines were repaired; railroad trains operated as far west as Christian's Creek, and wagons brought supplies from that point. During this period Hunter had marched on to Lynchburg, where he was driven back to begin his devastating retreat to Charleston.

We know the sequel. Less than two weeks later, June 27, Early's II Corps, including our Fifth Infantry, was in Staunton on its march northward. But Early lingered only long enough to order shoes for his barefoot army. By July 11 he was besieging the city of Washington, while detachments were cutting the railroad north of Baltimore. A few days later they returned to the Valley with stores, captured arms, and even herds of cattle.

That of course did not end troop movements here. Again on September 26, after Early's defeat at Fisher's Hill, Sheridan's army swarmed through Augusta County, sending detachments to burn the railroad station in Waynesboro. The raid here had the principal purpose of destroying foodstuffs in rural areas. As a rule, destruction was not wanton; with one large exception, dwelling houses were unharmed. The exception emanated from an order that every structure within a five-mile radius of Dayton be destroyed in reprisal for murder of the Union engineer, Lieutenant Meigs. By intercession of Colonel Wildes, Dayton was spared; but every house, shed, stable, and chicken house around was demolished.

The remainder of the fall of 1864 passed without turmoil. In November after his defeat at Cedar Creek, Early found winter

quarters for his infantry at Fishersville, with his cavalry at Swoope and his own headquarters in the building where Schmid's printery now stands. One amusing reminiscence recounts that in January 1865, while Early attended Presbyterian services in Staunton and when the preacher asked the question as to what we would do if the dead were to rise again, Early muttered half audibly, "I'd conscript the whole lot of them."

There was some diversion in February when Ranger Jesse McNeill brought in the Federal generals, Kelley and Crook, whom he had captured in Cumberland, Maryland. General Early welcomed the two prisoners with a lavish dinner in the Virginia Hotel before shipping them to Libby Prison in Richmond.

By that time, though, the Confederacy was dying. Augusta was to suffer once more on March 2 when Sheridan swept through the county, met Early at Waynesboro, and in a short battle crushed him. Colonel W. H. Harman, Grand Master of Virginia Masons, was killed, but the five generals escaped into the Blue Ridge. Next day a Federal patrol, marching the 2,000 prisoners through Staunton, demanded food for them. Citizens were reluctant; and the Federals invaded homes and institutions. Among the supplies that they appropriated were a thousand pounds of meat and two hundred barrels of flour from the Western Lunatic Asylum. According to all evidence, this is the only occasion when schools and strictly civic buildings were invaded.

Reference has been made to William H. Harman, one of Augusta's generals. He attained the grade of brigadier general in the militia and went to Harper's Ferry in that capacity. When Jackson reorganized the army, Harman was made lieutenant colonel of the Fifth and ultimately commanded that regiment. He was one of five distinguished brothers. M. G. Harman was commandant of Staunton for a while, but led the Fifty-second at McDowell, where he was incapacitated for life. John A. was Jackson's quartermaster and was one of the few whom Jackson took into confidence. Asher became colonel of the Twelfth Cavalry and was captured at Harper's Ferry. Thomas A., lieutenant in the Staunton Artillery, manned a gun in the Muleshoe Salient at Spotsylvania, when the Stonewall Brigade was annihilated.

Another of our militia generals, Kenton Harper, a native of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, had founded the Staunton *Spectator*. He commanded the Staunton company during the Mexican War, was later appointed Government Agent to Indian Territory,

and was major general at the beginning of the Civil War. He led the reserves at Piedmont and Waynesboro.

Robert Doak Lilley was also an Augusta general. At the beginning of the war he organized the Greenville Rifles, and in May 1864 he became a brigadier general. At Winchester in July he was left on the field for dead and was not exchanged until early 1865 — in time, however, to serve in the battle of Waynesboro.

Augusta County may claim also General Walker, who was born here but moved away in early manhood. Probably the most interestingly controversial of our generals was John D. Imboden, a highly intelligent but intensely argumentative man. Born near Waynesboro, he became a lawyer and was involved in almost every civic enterprise here. He commanded the Staunton Artillery when the war broke out. According to his own story, when at Harper's Ferry he ordered those men of his battery who were willing to volunteer for the duration to step forward one pace, all but three did so, and he placed the three under arrest for insubordination until they saw the light; within ten minutes he could boast that his was the first company so to volunteer. After organizing a cavalry brigade, he was promoted brigadier general. In late 1864 he was transferred to Georgia to command a prisoner-of-war encampment. He did not return to Staunton but engaged in mining ventures in southwest Virginia. He was married five times. Shortly before his death he patented a steam motor for propelling streetcars.

But to return to the war itself: in early April came word that Richmond had fallen and Lee was retreating. On April 11 rumor proclaimed that Lee had surrendered. Yet after that, O'Ferrall, commanding the Twenty-third Cavalry, surprised a Federal detachment north of here and routed it. Units in the Valley began their march to join Johnston in North Carolina but were informed that he had capitulated. With few exceptions these regiments simply were dissolved, and the men later turned themselves in for individual paroles.

During this transitional period town officials were able to maintain a semblance of order, but some confusion and lawlessness prevailed in the county, particularly from cattle rustlers masquerading as Union troops. Asher Harman and Jed Hotchkiss organized a posse and met one of the bands at Buffalo Gap, shooting a few of the outlaws.

Finally on April 29 a troop of the Twenty-first New York

Cavalry rode cautiously into town, but remained only four days. On May 8 a large assemblage of citizens at the courthouse drew up pledges of allegiance to the United States government. Next day a reinforced regiment under General Duval occupied Staunton and sent detachments to towns throughout the county. County elections were held July 19, and most of the incumbents were reelected. A new edict prohibiting anyone's holding office if he had served against the United States was circumvented by allowing some qualified man to accept the office and then to appoint the elected but disqualified man to serve under him in the guise of deputy but with all the perquisites of the office.

Though Augusta County emerged from the Civil War broken and impoverished, a spirit of optimism and industry asserted itself toward rapid revival. Before two years had elapsed, banks were organized, new industrial plants were launched, and businesses were reinstated. Retaining its pride in records of sacrifice and valor, Augusta County soon moved forward as part of a reunited country, to renewed progress in accord with long established traditions of sturdy and progressive vision.

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